



MILK PRODUCTION

December Milk Production Up 1.0 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.0 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from December 2000. November revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds, was up 0.8 percent from November 2000. The November revision represented an increase of 0.3 percent or 38 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,547 pounds for December, 28 pounds above December 2000.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 62,000 head less than December 2000, but 10,000 head more than November 2001.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 40.8 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.10 million head, 113,000 head less than the same period last year.

TURKEY HATCHERY

Eggs in Incubators on January 1 Up 2 Percent From Last Year

Turkey eggs in incubators on January 1, 2002, in the United States totaled 32.2 million, up 2 percent from January 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were up 6 percent from the December 1 total of 30.2 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central, unchanged; West North Central, up 12 percent; North and South Atlantic, down slightly; South Central, down 3 percent; and West, down 18 percent.

The 24.9 million poult placed during December 2001 in the United States were up 7 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 3 percent from the November 2001 total of 24.2 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central, up 12 percent; West North Central, up 12 percent; North and South Atlantic, up 5 percent; South Central, up 5 percent; and West, down 12 percent.

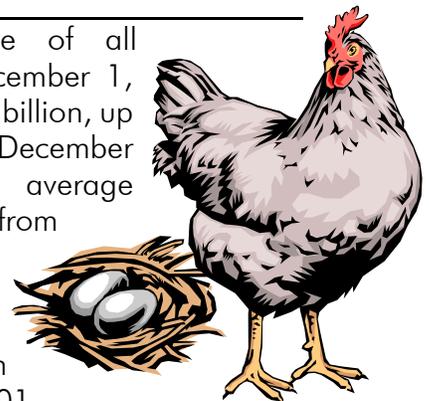
CHICKENS AND EGGS

2001 Summary

Egg Production up 1 Percent: Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2001 totaled a record high 85.6 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year's total of 84.4 billion eggs. Table egg production, at 72.7 billion eggs, increased 2 percent from 2000. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, decreased slightly.

December 1 Inventory Numbers: The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2001 (excluding commercial broilers) was 441 million birds, up 1 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2001 was \$1.07 billion, up 1 percent from December 1, 2000. The average value decreased from \$2.44 per bird on December 1, 2000, to \$2.42 per bird on December 1, 2001.

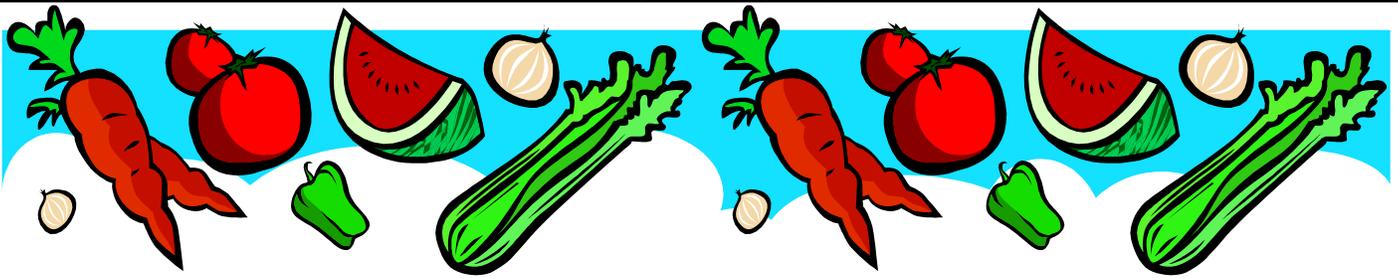


VEGETABLES

Fresh Vegetable Harvested Acreage Down 6 Percent

Spring Onion Planted Acreage Down 2 Percent

Winter Strawberry Acreage Up 6 Percent



The prospective area for harvest of 12 selected fresh market vegetables during the winter quarter is forecast at 179,700 acres. This is 6 percent below 2001 and 8 percent below 2000. Acreage decreases in broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, head lettuce, spinach and tomatoes more than offset acreage increases in snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, and bell peppers. Eggplant acreage remains unchanged.

Area planted for spring onions, at 37,700 acres, is down 2 percent from 2001 and 9 percent below 2000. Arizona increased planted acreage while the remaining spring onion States decreased area planted for 2002.

Florida's winter strawberry acreage is forecast at 6,900 acres, an increase of 6 percent over 2001 and 10 percent above 2000.

Snap Beans: Florida acreage for harvest is 12,000 acres, up 9 percent from last year and 26 percent above 2000. The snap bean crop is in good condition and harvesting is underway with good quality and volume.

Broccoli: California acreage is forecast at 22,000 acres, 29 percent below 2001 and 33 percent below 2000. Weather conditions have been favorable for the crop, and yields are likely to increase as growers planted fewer acres and allocated the most fertile fields to vegetables. No major pests or disease problems are being encountered.

Cabbage: Winter acreage for harvest is forecast at 11,000 acres, 24 percent above 2001 and 2 percent above 2000. Florida's harvest is active and the crop is in good condition. In Texas, the San Antonio-Winter Garden area showed good progress for cabbage harvest, although light

showers have slowed harvest in some areas. East Texas continues to dry out from recent rains, so harvest has slowed. The High Plains continue to have favorable conditions for harvesting.

Carrots: Winter harvested acreage is forecast at 23,700 acres, 8 percent below last year and 11 percent below two years ago. The California crop is reported in good condition. High demand for baby carrots continues. In Texas, harvest was slow for carrots in the Rio Grande Valley. Harvest is mainly on hold due to recent rains in east Texas. The High Plains continue to have favorable conditions for harvesting.

Cauliflower: California acreage is forecast at 8,500 acres, down 19 percent from 2001 and 26 percent below 2000. Weather conditions have been favorable to winter cauliflower. No disease or pest problems have developed.

Celery: The winter celery crop for harvest in California is forecast at 7,900 acres, 3 percent above last year and 5 percent above 2000. The celery crop in the Oxnard area is in fair condition. Because of the white fly problem encountered last fall, the outer leaves have been cut away reducing yield and crop size.

Sweet Corn: Florida harvested acreage is forecast at 8,000 acres, 8 percent more than last year and the year before. Mostly mild conditions during November and December allowed planting around Homestead to progress normally. Planting was complete by mid-December. The Dade County and East Coast acreage escaped significant damage from colder weather that arrived in late December. Harvesting started in Dade County in late December.

Eggplant: Acreage for winter harvest in Florida, at 500 acres, is unchanged from 2001 but 17 percent below 2000. Harvest is active. Crop quality is good.

Head Lettuce: Acreage for harvest is forecast at 66,000, down 3 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Harvest of lettuce is underway in some areas. No major problems were reported, although some spraying for leafminers and worms was noted.

Onions: Growers intend to plant 37,700 acres of spring onions for 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 9 percent below 2000. In California, planting began in October under favorable conditions. Onion fields have shown robust growth in many areas in response to recent rains and good growing conditions. Georgia reports a very dry and warm fall which discouraged producers from transplanting onions. Rains and more seasonal temperatures returned by late December when planting was nearly complete. Texas harvest in the Rio Grande Valley is progressing slowly. The San Antonio/Winter Garden area showed good progress. Recent rains in east Texas slowed most cultural activities. The High Plains continue to have favorable conditions for planting and harvesting.

Bell Peppers: Winter acreage in Florida is forecast at 5,600 acres, 27 percent above last year and 17 percent above 2000. Mostly mild weather from October through December allowed planting to proceed at a normal pace in the growing areas around Immokalee, Jupiter, and Stuart. Strong winds from the Atlantic caused some bud and bloom drop in the East Coast region, however, no significant damage occurred.

Spinach: Harvested acres of winter spinach in Texas is forecast at 2,000 acres, a decrease of 5 percent from 2001 and 23 percent below the 2000 crop. Harvest was slow for spinach in the Rio Grande Valley. The San Antonio-Winter Garden area showed good progress for spinach harvest, although light showers have slowed harvest. Harvest in east Texas is delayed due to recent rains. Harvesting conditions continue to be favorable in the High Plains.

Strawberries: Florida winter acreage is forecast at 6,900 acres, up 6 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago. The warmer fall weather increased foliage growth and reduced fruit quantity. This warm weather caused the fruit to ripen two weeks earlier than normal.

Tomatoes: Florida winter tomato acreage is forecast at 12,500 acres, down 11 percent from 2001 and 10 percent below 2000. Warm temperatures and mostly clear conditions boosted plant growth and allowed planting and harvesting to proceed at a normal pace during October through most of December. Dade County and other southern Peninsula areas reported no significant damage when Hurricane Michelle passed through the Florida Straits in early November. Blowing sand powered by strong winds off the Atlantic Ocean caused some quality reductions during late November. However, milder weather during most of December yielded some very good quality fruit. Temperatures plunged to freezing levels in late December and early January in many northern and central localities. However, the crop escaped significant damage due to the short duration of the colder temperatures.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Farm Prices Received Index Up 1 Point

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January was 96, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from the December Index. Price increases for tomatoes, lettuce, cattle, and hogs more than offset decreased prices for cotton, broccoli, turkeys, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for cattle, corn, soybeans, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of tobacco, grapes, cotton, and milk.

Compared with January 2001, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Higher prices for lettuce, broilers, oranges, and potatoes offset lower prices for cattle, soybeans, rice, and onions.

Prices Paid Index Down 1 Point

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 121 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was down 1 point (0.8 percent) from December and 4 points (3.2 percent) below January 2001. Lower prices in January for herbicides, feed concentrates, nitrogen fertilizer, feeder cattle, and LP gas more than offset higher prices for feeder pigs, feed supplements, insecticides, and complete feeds in the index.
